

## A MINI-MYSTERY IN THE HILLS

### The Case of the Kid and the Blue Pickup

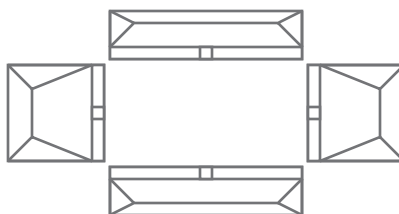
For a second or two Brooke Barry was almost grateful the air conditioning in her patrol car wasn't working, for just as the kid snapped off a piece of the chocolate bar in his pocket and offered it to her, she'd reached up to wipe yet another drop of sweat from her nose. The action had stopped her from accepting the chocolate instinctively and, well, his hands weren't exactly clean.

She'd picked up the kid on 124, near the cemetery north of Shelburne. He was twelve, maybe thirteen, wore a baseball cap, ratty jeans and a sport shirt. He said he'd been waiting there for his father for almost an hour. Brooke suspected he'd actually been hitchhiking and waiting-for-dad wasn't true at all. Still, she had only been cruising and it wouldn't hurt to take him on up to Creemore where he said he was going.

The kid didn't know it yet but she wasn't going to simply drop someone his age in Creemore without asking a few questions first. For one thing, he'd seen a blue pickup with a broken headlight – or so he claimed. There'd been a holdup down in Caledon East just before Brooke's shift started. The bad guys were driving a blue Chevrolet pickup with a damaged fender, and it had been confirmed that they headed north on Airport Road. When she'd rather casually mentioned it to the kid, he said, yeah, he'd seen a blue pickup with a banged-up fender, a Chev, he thought. It had passed him going north and then he saw it do a u-turn and go south again. Real fast too.

Boys his age are pretty savvy about vehicles, Brooke knew, and normally she would have called in the tip right away, but given that he had lied to her once for sure, possibly twice, she knew she had to dig deeper on this first. No sense in starting a wild goose chase.

*What is the one lie "for sure" that makes Brooke Barry suspicious?*



### On a Hill Near Hillsburgh

Four flower growers combined their resources to build greenhouses, one each, atop a large hill near Hillsburgh, reasoning that the location would be ideal for sunlight. The greenhouses were built to form the four edges of a rectangle, with a common area in the centre for parking and general activity. In the greenhouse on the northern edge of the square, Jack raised geraniums. Judy operated the greenhouse to the immediate left of the one operated by Jill. The greenhouse used to raise chrysanthemums is not Jill's and the one devoted to raising poinsettias is not operated by Josh. The Easter lily greenhouse is directly opposite the latter.

*Whose greenhouse is where on this square atop the hill in Hillsburgh, and what flower does each grower produce?*

### The Colbeck Hiddenhoms

As part of its contribution to the annual spring fair in Orangeville, the Colbeck Literary and Etymological Guild (now disbanded) offered the following contest. It was a word-play activity based on "hidden" homonyms. The word "sole" for example is part of a shoe and is also a tasty fish. The clue the Guild offered for this "hiddenhom" was "the part of a shoe that might swim." Another clue was "a container for carrying a dismissal." The answer was "sack." Try your luck with these clues from the Guild.

1  
Octaves on a fish.

2  
This you get from a horse. Or a duck.

3  
A neck stretch on the construction site.

4  
A restrung noise.

5  
The captain's notes in a lumber camp.

6  
The drink of choice for self-defence.

7  
A flaring competition.

8  
Annoyed from one side to the other.

9  
A potentially dangerous trump.

10  
Exclude the counter.



### Sharing the Apples

Four teenage friends from Creemore stopped at a u-pick orchard in Caledon on their way home from Niagara Falls. They had brought a large bag with them and, working together, filled the bag in just a few minutes. However, when it came time to pay, there was a problem because three of them were short of cash. As a result each one of the friends contributed a different amount to pay the bill.

Once they were home they found they had 233 apples and shared them in this way. Tina, because she had paid most of the bill at the orchard, got 20 more apples than Mary-Lynn, 53 more than Ramesh, and 71 more than Kearan. (One apple was wormy and they threw it away.)

*How many apples did each one take home?*

### Who Was in Charge?

Who was premier of Ontario when...

1 The Town of Erin was amalgamated from the Village of Erin and the Township of Erin in 1997?

David Peterson	Bob Rae	Mike Harris
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2 The Pine River Provincial Fishing Area was established in 1970?

William Davis	John Robarts	Leslie Frost
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3 Caledon East's beloved Dr. Sam Allison passed away in 1928?

Mitch Hepburn	Leslie Frost	Howard Ferguson
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4 Wilton Downey, former reeve of Bolton, became warden of Peel County in 1960?

John Robarts	Leslie Frost	Oliver Mowat
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5 Mono Mills became part of the Region of Peel in 1974?

William Davis	John Robarts	Frank Miller
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Who was prime minister of Canada when...

6 A TG&B locomotive called the "Mono" passed through Orangeville in 1876, establishing a record time for the Toronto-Owen Sound run?

Alexander Mackenzie	John A. Macdonald	Wilfrid Laurier
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7 Grand Valley was incorporated in 1897, as the 9th municipality to be admitted to the County of Dufferin?

Wilfrid Laurier	Robert Borden	John A. Macdonald
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8 Shelburne's Canadian Open Old Time Fiddle championship was held for the 40th time in 1990?

Pierre Trudeau	Jean Chretien	Brian Mulroney
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9 Cedar Valley (near Hillsburgh) got its first telephone in 1910?

William Lyon Mackenzie King	Wilfrid Laurier	Robert Borden
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10 In the Hills magazine celebrated its 10th anniversary in the spring of 2003?

Paul Martin	Stephen Harper	Jean Chretien
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**P U Z Z L I N G   S O L U T I O N S** from page 86

**The Colbeck Hiddenhoms**

- 1 – scales    2 – down
- 3 – crane    4 – racket
- 5 – log       6 – punch
- 7 – match    8 – cross
- 9 – club      10 – bar

**The Kid and the Blue Pickup**

If the kid had been standing at the side of the road for almost an hour on a hot day, he would not have been able to “snap off” a piece of a chocolate bar that had been in his pocket.

**Sharing the Apples**

- Tina – 94      Mary-Lynn – 74
- Ramesh – 41    Kearan – 23

**On a Hill Near Hillsburgh**



- Jack – geraniums
- Judy – chrysanthemums
- Jill – poinsettias
- Josh – Easter lilies

**Who Was in Charge?**

- 1 – M. Harris      2 – J. Robarts
- 3 – H. Ferguson    4 – L. Frost
- 5 – W. Davis       6 – A. Mackenzie
- 7 – W. Laurier     8 – B. Mulroney
- 9 – W. Laurier     10 – J. Chretien